

Appln No. 10/753,332
Amdt. Dated April 19, 2006
Response to Advisory Action of February 22, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the detailed comments in the Office Action. The Office Action has been carefully considered. It is respectfully submitted that the issues raised are traversed, being hereinafter addressed with reference to the relevant headings appearing in the Detailed Action section of the Office Action.

Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims. The Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claim set are fully supported by the originally filed specification.

The Applicant has amended claim 1 to correct a spelling error. Claim 1 previously read "*A printing system including a least two printheads*". The Applicant has amended claim 1 to specify "*A printing system including at least two printheads*". The Applicant submits that this amendment introduces no new subject matter.

Claim Rejections – USC § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 – 7, 9 and 18 as being anticipated by Kawaguchi (US Patent Number 5,833,914). The Examiner has also rejected claims 1 – 13 as being anticipated by Gothait (US Patent Number 6,658,314).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

In regard to Kawaguchi, the Examiner has highlighted column 8, lines 22 – 25, 40 – 45, 64 – 65, and column 9, lines 9 – 15 of the citation. It is apparent that this document describes a method including the following steps:

- Step 1: Forming a second type layer on a first type layer
- Step 2: Forming a slot groove in the second layer
- Step 3: Printing a releaser on a predetermined region on the second type layer
- Step 4: Forming a third type layer on the second type layer
- Step 5: Solidifying the third type layer to form the first type layer
- Step 6: Repeating steps 1 to 5.

At lines 19 to 29 of column 8, the molding apparatus is described to compose of a release printing unit for printing a releaser, a releaser hardening device for hardening a printed releaser, a solidifying material coating device for coating a solidifying material on the surface of a laminate structure, a solidifying material layer solidifying device for solidifying the coated solidifying the coated material, and a control device for controlling the aforementioned devices.

Thus, it is apparent that the molding apparatus only includes a single printhead, ie. the release printing unit. The other devices are not described anywhere in Kawaguchi as being printheads which print material. Furthermore, it is clear that only a single material is printed, ie. releaser. Additionally, only a single method is used for curing the printed material ie. the releaser hardening device for hardening printed releaser.

Claim 1 of the current application specifies that the printing system includes at least two printheads. A first printhead prints a first material and a second printhead prints a second material. Furthermore, two different methods are used for curing each of the printed materials.

It is clear that Kawaguchi fails to show the following elements of claim 1:

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- *at least two printheads*: because Kawaguchi only shows a single printing device
- *a first one of the printheads printing a first material and a second one of the printheads printing a second material*: because Kawaguchi shows only printing a single material from a single printing device
- *the first material being cured by a first method and the second material being cured by a second method and wherein the first and second methods are different*: because Kawaguchi only teaches a single method for solidifying the releaser material.

MPEP 2131 states that *"to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim"*. Clearly as Kawaguchi fails to show at least the above elements of claim 1, Kawaguchi fails to anticipate claim 1.

Based on the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejection regarding Kawaguchi.

In regard to Gothait, this document describes at lines 18 to 29 of column 5 that *"the interface material 108a, 108b is preferably a photopolymer, containing ultra violet (UV) curable material suitable for UV curing or hardening by the application of UV radiation from curing unit 18."*

Therefore, Gothait only describes a single method of curing the printed material ie. UV radiation.

Thus, Gothait fails to expressly or inherently describe the claim element of *"the first material being cured by a first method and the second material being cured by a second method and wherein the first and second methods are different"*.

In regard to MPEP 2131, as every element of claim 1 is not taught by Gothait, Gothait fails to anticipate claim 1.

Based on the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejection regarding Gothait.

Claim Rejections – USC § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 14 – 17 as being unpatentable over Kawaguchi or Gothait in view of O'Connor (US Patent Number 5,705,117).

As O'Connor has only been relied upon for disclosing claim limitations of claims 14 to 17, the Applicant submits that in view with the above comments, all claim limitations of claim 1 has not been taught or suggested by Kawaguchi in view of O'Connor or Gothait in view of O'Connor. As all claim limitations must be shown to reject a claim as obvious, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejections.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections. The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance of all the claims presently under examination.

Very respectfully,
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